

To: Elliott, Dan[delliott@ap.org]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Brown, Matthew[MBrown@ap.org]
From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Thur 10/22/2015 9:11:38 PM
Subject: RE: Additional Gold King questions from AP

Thanks, Dan. Nancy and I are still working on your other two questions.

Christie St. Clair
Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency
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-----Original Message-----

From: Elliott, Dan [mailto:delliott@ap.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 5:03 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Brown, Matthew <MBrown@ap.org>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Additional Gold King questions from AP

Nancy:

Thanks. The BOR confirmed that for the purposes of the report, the EPA field coordinator, the EPA on scene coordinator and the EPA project leader is the same person. BOR also confirmed that the intent of the report was to say that the EPA on scene coordinator who requested the visit by Mr. Gobla left on vacation, and another EPA on scene coordinator was filling in at the time the decision was made to proceed with the attempt to put a drain pipe into the mine without waiting for Mr. Gobla.

Please let me know as soon as possible if this isn't correct.

Dan

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[cid:image002.jpg@01CE4BD2.51DB1250]

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From: Grantham, Nancy [mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Elliott, Dan; Brown, Matthew
Cc: StClair, Christie

Subject: RE: Additional Gold King questions from AP

Hi Dan and Matt,

We are working on answers to the questions below; in the meantime, please use our statement below:

EPA requested the Department of Interior report, Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident, to provide an independent assessment of factors that contributed to the August 5, 2015 Gold Mine incident. EPA will carefully review the report. This report, in combination with the findings of EPA's internal review of the incident, will help inform EPA's ongoing efforts to work safely and effectively at mine sites as we carry out our mission to protect human health and the environment.

Thank you

Nancy Grantham

From: Elliott, Dan [mailto:delliott@ap.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 2:47 PM
To: Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov<mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>>; Allen, Laura <Allen.Laura@epa.gov<mailto:Allen.Laura@epa.gov>>; Press <Press@epa.gov<mailto:Press@epa.gov>>
Cc: Brown, Matthew <MBrown@ap.org<mailto:MBrown@ap.org>>
Subject: Additional Gold King questions from AP

Melissa, Laura:

In addition to Matt Brown's request for the EPA's response to the Bureau of Reclamation report, will you please clarify these points for us?

1. The executive summary, on Page 3, mentions "EPA field coordinators" at the Gold King Mine. Is a field coordinator the same as the EPA "on scene coordinator" mentioned on Page 44 of the report, or someone else? If someone else, do the field coordinator and on scene coordinator work together, or does one report to the other?
2. Also on Page 3, the executive summary mentions "the EPA project leader." Is that the same as a field coordinator and an on-scene coordinator, or is it someone else? If someone else, do the project leader, on scene coordinator and field coordinator work together, or do two of them report to the third?
3. The executive summary says the EPA project leader wanted to wait for BOR technical input before removing the plug at the Gold King Mine. On Page 44, the report says the EPA on scene coordinator asked Mr. Gobla of the BOR on July 23 to visit the Gold King site "because he was unsure about the plans for the Gold King Mine." Do these two passages refer to the same thing? Is the EPA project leader mentioned in the executive summary the same person as the on scene coordinator mentioned on Page 44 who asked Mr. Gobla to visit the Gold King because he was unsure about the plan?
4. The executive summary also mentions "a change in EPA field coordinators" on the Gold King project. On Page 44, the report says the EPA on scene coordinator was planning to go on vacation sometime after July 23, 2015, returning on Aug. 14. Do these two passages refer to the same thing? Did another on scene coordinator fill in for the one who went on vacation, and was this the "change in EPA field

coordinators" mentioned in the executive summary?

These questions are for a story that will be distributed today, so I'd appreciate hearing back from you as soon as possible.

Thanks.

Dan Elliott

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[cid:image002.jpg@01CE4BD2.51DB1250]

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